

Wasatch Co. Building Survey  
Name of Building: Orvis J Call Home

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Information Required		Date Found
Location:		
Address:	E 6005 Town: Heber	
Architect:		
Builders:		
Building Material:		
Style of Building:		
Date Built:		
Original Owners:	Orvis J Call	
	FGS	
	Pedigree	
	Histories	
	Pictures	
Subsequent Owners:		
Notes:		
References:	1.	
	2.	

Protestant schools came to Wasatch County about 1883, and were welcomed because of the shortage of teachers in the valley. In fact, Latter-day Saint officials even helped the teachers become situated in the valley, realizing the cultural influence many of them would exert in the area.

The Congregationalists and Methodists were most influential in the Wasatch area. The first school was established by the New West Educational Commission, one of the societies of the Congregational Church. Known as the New West School, it was located on the corner of 1st North and 2nd East. Miss Angie L. Steele was the first teacher and she soon had more than 40 pupils. Some of the teachers, Miss Steele, Jennie Clafin, a Miss Shepherd, a Mrs. Rand, Miss Shute, Miss Crosbie, Miss Lester and Miss Stoner, to mention only a few, are still remembered affectionately and favorably by some of the older valley residents. When Miss Shute died she willed a considerable sum of money to the Wasatch County Library.

The Methodists opened a church and a school on the corner of Center Street and 1st West, a site which is now occupied by the Second-Fifth Ward Chapel of the LDS Church. Miss Ella Young was an early teacher in this Methodist School. The big issue of the day then was prohibition, and she took every opportunity to promote it.

Most of the teachers were single women from the East and were very well educated. They brought a cultural and intellectual influence into the frontier country that contributed greatly in refining the communities in which they lived.

Early educational efforts by the LDS Church were centered largely in the Wasatch Stake Academy which was established in Heber City.

In July, 1888, Wilford Woodruff, President of the Church, wrote a letter of instructions to President Abram Hatch of Wasatch Stake concerning the establishment of a stake board of education and the beginning of a stake academy.

With his counselors, President Hatch chose eight men, one from each of the wards of the stake, to serve on the board of education. They immediately formulated plans for the construction of a school building.

However, school work began before the building was completed. At a meeting of the board on August 2, 1889, Enoch Jorgensen was appointed principal of the Academy. He held his first classes in the back room of the Stake Tabernacle. Other Academy locations included the upper story of the Courthouse, the old Relief Society building on the northeast corner of the Tithing Office Block, the old "Social Hall," and upstairs in the rock building housing Carter's Store. The Carter's Store had also housed the Congregational School for a period.

When Mr. Jorgensen was appointed principal the board determined that the academic year would be divided into four terms beginning September 9, 1889. The terms would continue through June 27. Tuition was set at \$4 a term, paid in advance. Those who came from commu-

nities outside Heber were offered good board and lodging with private families for \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

Mr. Jorgensen taught the intermediate subjects, while a Miss Nelson was appointed instructor of the preparatory grade. This preparatory work did not begin until the second term.

Those enrolled in the intermediate grade had a wide selection of subjects from which to choose. Basic instruction, of course, was in the principles of the Gospel. Also offered were reading, grammar, composition, arithmetic, geography, penmanship, orthography or spelling, analytical and perspective drawing, bookkeeping, vocal music, United States history, algebra, physiology, and ladies' work, presumed to be homemaking courses.

The versatility of Mr. Jorgensen can be surmised from the class schedules, since he taught all the classes as well as being principal. Students however, were limited to a total of eight subjects, lest they should overwork, as undoubtedly their principal did.

The religious instruction was considered a most important part of the training. In his letter to President Hatch President Woodruff had indicated that "religious training is almost excluded from the district schools. The study of books that we value as Divine is forbidden."

Having been taught that the glory of God is intelligence, and that men cannot be saved "in ignorance," the Church leaders realized the importance of providing instruction in all areas of knowledge.

Thus in the Wasatch Academy, heavy emphasis was placed on theological subjects. Students were graded according to age, the Priesthood they held and previous training in religious subjects. School days were opened and closed with singing and prayer. There were daily recitations of scripture or other religious thoughts, and special Church services held each Wednesday. On Monday evenings after school, Mr. Jorgensen held a general review of the previous week's theology lessons. Also, once a week a Priesthood meeting was held to acquaint those who held the Priesthood with its organization and duties.

In addition, the strict moral standards of the Church were required of those attending. There was to be no profanity or obscenity, tobacco or strong drink, no visiting of taverns or games of chance.

By the end of the first term Mr. Jorgensen had enrolled 36 students and this number grew to 126 by February 18, 1890.

School work at the Academy continued successfully enough that the district schools provided elementary education only and left the secondary education to the Academy.

One of the first steps toward a public high school began in the school year of 1898-99 when J. Reuben Clark, Jr., of Grantsville, Tooele County, came to Wasatch County to teach high school subjects. The young teacher, who later became a high government official, ambassador to Mexico and then a member of the First Presidency of the LDS Church,

P. Murdock, Beth Robbins, Tessie McGuire, Julia Morse Anderson, Arthur Bjorkman, Lodema Plummer, Blanch Swain, Chloe Thacker and Ina Coleman.

The school building was used for all community activities and Church meetings until 1909 when the Social Hall was built. Church and social functions then moved to the new facility, as did a few classes. The log school continued in use until 1923 when a red brick school was built with three classrooms, two rest rooms, storage room and coal furnace heat.

First principal in the new school was O. J. Call. Tessie McGuire continued teaching and Clara Huber was also on the staff. Later the 7th and 8th grades were transported by bus to Heber Junior High School. Miss McGuire became principal of the school after the two grades were transferred to Heber. She was assisted by Minnie Evans (Cummings) and Amber Strong (Turner). Later, Charles E. Bronson was appointed principal to relieve some of the load carried by Miss McGuire who had 33 students in two classrooms. She was also caring for her ailing mother at home. Other teachers included Mima Broadbent (Hicken), Lavilla Barzee and Hazel Bethers.

The county school board decided to close the Daniel school in 1940 and transport the students to Charleston. The last teachers in the school were Mr. Bronson and Miss McGuire. They were considered very capable teachers. Lula Clegg, county superintendent of schools, often said that the students who were tutored under these two teachers averaged out the highest in the county on state tests that were given.

Miss McGuire transferred to the Charleston school and taught there until 1951 when she retired after 39 years of active teaching.

The red brick school house was sold to the Church for conversion into a chapel.

The Daniel school enjoyed the distinction of starting a school hot lunch program at least three years before other schools in the area. All mothers of students in the school grouped together and out of their own means and material began serving hot meals at noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to more than 90 pupils. Two mothers at a time would take turns cooking the meals at their homes and then taking the hot food to the school where it was served. The school furnished dishes and some cooking utensils. Julia Anderson directed the project. Mrs. Maude Bell had charge of preparing and serving school lunches daily, when the government started the hot meals at noon, until the school was transferred.





One of the first steps toward a county high school came when J. Reuben Clark, Jr., of Grantsville, came to Wasatch County to teach high school subjects. Members of his class, pictured here, are, back row, left to right, Frank Conrad, Jay R. Smith, Anna Hatch, J. Reuben Clark, Jr., Lottie Moulton, David Baird. Center Row, Zina Bond, Isabelle Baum, John McDonald and John Neil. Front Row: T. Henry Moulton, Phoebe Bonner, Annie Murdock and Elizabeth Lindsay.

met with a small group of students in the northwest room of the second floor of the Central School.

About this same time, or shortly afterward, Alfred J. Bond taught a group of students in high school work in the upper story of a building occupied by John Winterrose, undertaker. Following Mr. Clark and Mr. Bond were Alfred J. Ridges and O. J. Call who taught high school subjects in the old "Sleepy Hollow" school in the years 1906 and 1907. About 20 students attended their courses.

The present Wasatch High School had its beginnings in 1908 when classwork was started in rooms of the North School with a faculty of three teachers—James Johnson, J. W. Robinson and O. A. Whitaker. Rooms were also rented over the old Heber Mercantile on the corner of Main Street between Center and First South. Some classes were also held in rooms adjoining the old bank just west of the Mercantile.

By 1912 the present pot rock portion of the high school was erected and classwork was conducted on a regular basis. An addition of classrooms and other facilities comprising the right-wing or red brick portion



The first band and orchestra of Wasatch High School in 1908-1909, under the direction of O. A. Whitaker. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Seymour Duke, Minnie Duke and Mazie Campbell; second row, Douglas Murdock, Rolland Wootton, Ben Roberts, Stuart Fortie, Elijah Hicken, Leland Wootton and Walter Burgener. Back row, Sylvan Rasband, Robert McKnight, Adolph Hansen, Abe Turner, Claud Willis, Prof. O. A. Whitaker, William Bond, Guy Duke, Clayton Montgomery, Florence Fisher, Lecia Murdock, Ione Davis and Pearl Buys.

of the school was made in 1927 and provided a permanent home for the high school.

The educational progress of Wasatch High School has been guided during the years by devoted principals. These have included J. W. Robinson, Andrew L. Neff, Owen F. Beal, James Johnson, Fayette Stephens, Wm. J. Bond, Oswald L. Pearson, Lamond F. Hutchings, Edson Packer and Marion Tree.

The early high school curriculum consisted of a few academic subjects taught by the principal and one or two teachers. However, the present program has broadened to include many subjects with as many specialists to do the instruction. In addition there are numerous social, vocational and cultural subjects and extra-curricular opportunities available to the students.

During the years Wasatch High has won success in many school endeavors. Clark J. Crook and Douglas Edwards, a poultry judging team coached by Farrell Olson, represented all of Utah at a National Poultry Congress in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1931 the school band, directed by Delmar Dickson, participated





Threshing time at Center Creek. Shown here are Albert Giles on the wheel of the old tractor, with Archie Briggs on the ground and James W. Lindsay on the thresher.

Threshing time in late summer or early fall also brought hard work and excitement to the farms. Most farmers would pool their efforts, and travel from farm to farm to complete the work. Threshing crews generally consisted of from 10 to 15 men.

For weeks in advance the women-folk would plan the food, and dishes would be borrowed and loaned all over the community. Pies, cakes and steamed puddings would be cooked for days before the men were scheduled to arrive. Then, when the threshing machines rolled into the fields, vegetables, meats, home made bread, pickles and jam were all added to the menu. The men who sat down to the tables put away the food almost as fast as the threshing machines ate up the bundles of wheat or oats in the fields. And, it seemed more than coincidence that the break-downs usually occurred at the places where the food was best.

However, life was more than just hard work for the farmers. In the evenings they enjoyed taking part in dramatics, in music and in sports. Center always boasted excellent ball teams, and some of the best players included the three Ryan brothers, Homer, Ern and Frank along with Jack and Alex Allison, Nels Miller, Virge Howe, Jim Lindsay Jr., and Orvis Call. Hugh W. Harvey was an excellent singer, and in company with Livingston Montgomery provided some of the musical highlights of the valley. He also took leading roles in dramatics along with the Cluff family. Dancing also occupied a large part of the social life, and people would travel from the community to community to enjoy dancing parties. Jim Wheeler, Henry Walker, William and Homer Ryan, Dick Duke, Ed

Murdock and Bob McKnight were main musicians with William Harvey and William Richardson calling the quadrills.

The Center Creek story would not be complete without mentioning "Pryde's Hall." For the time it was considered very good. (1891) It was built by one of the early settlers of Center. He was a Scotsman, Davie Pryde, and loved by one and all. The hall was used for dancing, theatres, weddings, school and church programs; in later years for basketball. There was a kitchen built along the east side and although it contained only an old kitchen stove, table and some shelves, very delicious dinners were prepared. Two of the main cooks were Mary Mair Lindsay, and Sarah Jane Thompson Lindsay. Many of the early couples were married or held their receptions in this hall. But the most important event was the 25th of January, when all the Scots from far and near gathered to celebrate the birth of their favorite poet, Bobby Burns. The Ritchie's from Charleston, O'Neils from Midway, the Lindsay's, Montgomery's, Fisher's, Turner's, Murdock's and many more gathered to sing and recite and dance. Barbara Dawson would dance the Highland Fling. Jim Lindsay, well versed in Burns, would recite. Andrew Lindsay would sing, "Annie My Scotch Blue Bell" and "Annie Laurie," with the group joining in the chorus. The evening would end with dinner and all singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Even with their busy farming schedules, and with dramatics, dancing, socials and sports events to fill their lives, the people in Center Creek have always found time to devote to their religious duties.

As they first settled the community, they built a chapel in which to worship. John Harvey came to the community to direct the activities of the ward in 1861. Then, in 1877 when the people moved back after the Indian wars, Benjamin Cluff was called to serve as Bishop of the ward. Serving as counselors to Bishop Cluff until his release in 1894 were Sidney Worsley, John Harvey, William Blake, John Baird and Archibald Richardson. Daniel K. Bunnell was clerk.

William Blake became bishop in 1894 and chose as his counselors Alonzo Brim and Richard Harvey. William Priestly was the clerk. They served together until 1898 when Alonzo Brim was called to be the new bishop. His counselors were David W. Smith and Thomas Clegg, with William Priestly continuing as clerk. Thomas Clegg was sustained as the fourth bishop in 1900, and chose as his counselors David W. Smith and William Ryan. Elder Ryan also acted as clerk.

In 1903 David W. Smith was called to be the ward's fifth bishop. His counselors were William Ryan and Hugh W. Harvey. Just one year later, in 1904, Elder Harvey was sustained as the ward's sixth bishop. His counselors at that time were Anton M. Hansen and Charles Jensen. Other counselors included D. Warren Smith, Elmer Mahoney and Bennett Lindsay. Soren C. Christensen served as ward clerk.

During Bishop Harvey's term, the need for a new meeting house was keenly felt. After considerable discussion, it was determined to pur-